

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY OSLO

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, SV, NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN-SOVIET CONTINENTAL SHELF DELINEATION
TALKS

FROM HARTMAN FOR THE AMBASSADOR

REF: OSLO 2153

1. DURING TALKS JUNE 16 WITH THE SECRETARY, FOREIGN MINIS-
TER GENSCHER OF THE FRG RAISED THE NORWEGIAN-USSR NEGOTIA-
TIONS, BEGUN FORMALLY LAST NOVEMBER TO TRY TO DELINEATE THE
CONTINENTAL SHELF BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. GENSCHER AND
HIS DELEGATION EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE NORWEGIANS WERE
CARRYING ON, WITHOUT ANY TYPE OF CONSULTATIONS WHATSOEVER,
NEGOTIATIONS WHICH THE GERMANS FELT COULD IMPACT ON THE
LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHICH ARE SIGNATORIES OF THE 1920
TREATY OF SPITZBERGEN. THE GERMANS WERE ALSO OBVIOUSLY CON-
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CERNED THAT THE NORWEGIANS WERE UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM

THE SOVIETS TO ACCEPT TERMS IN ANY AGREEMENT THAT WOULD BE UNFAVORABLE TO WESTERN INTERESTS.

2. THE GERMAN DELEGATION, CONCERNED THAT THE NORWEGIANS WERE BEARING THE BRUNT OF A DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION, SUGGESTED THAT WE MIGHT WANT TO CONSULT WITH THE NORWEGIANS ON

THE ISSUE. THE SECRETARY AGREED THAT THIS SEEMED A GOOD IDEA.

3. WHILE WE ARE AWARE OF THE APPROXIMATE STATE OF PLAY OF THE SUBJECT NEGOTIATIONS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR BRINGING US UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND RECEIVING YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE DIRECTION IN WHICH NORWEGIAN THINKING IS DEVELOPING AS RELATES TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE NEED FOR CONSULTATIONS NOW OR IN THE FUTURE WITH THE NORWEGIANS ABOUT THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE USSR.

4. YOU SHOULD NOT INDICATE TO THE NORWEGIANS THAT THE GERMANS HAVE TAKEN THIS MATTER UP WITH US. KISSINGER

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